

There is no question that great enthusiasm was displayed on the entrance of the Allies into Paris. It may be praised or blamed, but the fact cannot be denied. I closely watched all that was passing, and I observed the expression of a sentiment which I had long anticipated when, after his alliance with the daughter of the Caesars, the ambition of Bonaparte increased in proportion as it was gratified: I clearly foresaw Napoleon's fall. Whoever watched the course of events during the last four years of the Empire must have observed, as I did, that from the date of Napoleon's marriage with Maria Louisa the forms of the French Government became daily more and more tyrannical and oppressive. The intolerable height which this evil had attained is evident from the circumstance that at the end of 1813 the Legislative Body, throwing aside the mute character which it had hitherto maintained, presumed to give a lecture to him who had never before received a lecture from any one. On the 31st of March it was recollected what had been the conduct of Bonaparte on the occasion alluded to, and those of the deputies who remained in Paris related how the gendarmes had opposed their entrance into the hall of the Assembly. All this contributed wonderfully to irritate the public mind against Napoleon. He had become master of France by the sword, and the sword being sheathed, his power was at an end, for no popular institution identified with the nation the new dynasty which he hoped to found. The nation admired but did not love Napoleon, for it is impossible to love what is feared, and he had done nothing to claim the affections of France.

I was present at all the meetings and conferences which were held at M. de Talleyrand's hôtel, where the Emperor Alexander had taken up his residence.¹ Of all the persons

¹ For the extraordinary scene at the hotel of Talleyrand all this time see *Beugnot*, vol. ii. pp. 96, 97. "It was a remarkable scene when M. de Talleyrand endeavored to pass, with his awkward walk, from his bedroom to his library, to give an audience promised to some one who had been waiting for hours. He had to cross the *salon*; he was stopped by one, seized on by another, blockaded by a third, until, wearied out, he returned to the place whence he had started, leaving the unfortunate man, whom he despaired of reaching, to remain in unavailing attendance. It is difficult," says Vitrolles (tome i. p. 325), "to have an idea of what the Provisional Government was. It was held entirely in the bedchamber of M. de Talleyrand in the *entresol* of